

# Meeting Minutes-State Interagency Team Meeting

Thursday, February 24, 2022

2:00-3:30

Location: Microsoft Teams

## System of Care Priorities:

1. Address workforce challenges and stress by investing in retention and recruitment efforts that bring in individuals who provide mental health supports, developmental disability services and peer supports.
2. Respond to the additional stress and trauma that has resulted from the past two years of the pandemic for children and families.
3. Invest in community-based supports and services leveraging federal funds and grants.

**Present:** Rachel Wassel, Deb Forrett, Dana Robson, Cheryle Wilcox, Karen Price, Barb Joyal, Suzanne Legare Belcher, Amy Lincoln Moore, Danielle Bragg, Mel D'Amico

**Regrets:** Laurel Omland, Alicia Hanrahan

Agenda	Discussion Notes	Next Steps
<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b>—<i>guest today, Renee Weeks, AHS, Health Care Reform Integration manager for AHS and DVHA</i></p> <p><b>Reviewing updates from last month any major updates we all need to know about related to our System of Care</b> (e.g. staffing changes, new programming, policy changes, fiscal, workforce challenges and planning, legislative outcomes)</p>	<p><b>Renee Weeks:</b> Oversees VT Chronic Care initiative, working with Field Directors around complex cases as well as identifying system gaps out of these cases, looking at a possible adult SIT; background at homeless shelter/case mgmt. in WRJ and various supportive housing programs as well as after school for children, prior at Clara Martin Ctr, clinician and sub abuse services. From VT originally.</p> <p><b>Updates:</b></p> <p><b>Amy Lincoln Moore-Vermont Federation of Families</b> – looking for grants, since Jan, very busy, especially Franklin, Washington Cty, Springfield for CSP's</p> <p><b>Karen Price, Vermont Family Network</b> – VFN- Diane Bugbee joining their family support team and Act 264 process at a few agencies, starting 3/7, grass roots parents' group – website – <a href="#">Building Hope for Parents</a> – working on gaining support around residential, keeping kids in VT, started with a survey, putting together scrapbook for Pam Coffey – open to all SIT members</p> <p><b>Suzanne Legare Belcher, Field Service Director</b> – reporting on Renee Weeks taking lead on adult SIT team, 1894 adults, 497 children in hotels until 4/1, new program starting – transitional program where folks can stay in the hotels for 18 months with a contract w/o eligibility every month. Newport – could the LIT teams be combined? Keeping the groups separate but getting together quarterly; FS supports folks in hotels; ESD is aware of the wait time for those in need of services</p> <p><b>Cheryle Wilcox, Interagency</b>– FEMA \$ ending mid March, impacting 211, workforce challenges getting attention with legislature, increase put in for</p>	<p>See attached information from Suzanne about hotel program</p>

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	<p>DA's and SSA's, growing vacancies, State Hosp has a 58% vacancy rate of direct service staff currently, new Secure Recovery Residence (to replace Middlesex) has begun building at old Woodside site could be ready by Dec.; autism workgroup has started back up monthly again post initial COVID break, also focused on workforce, Youth Service Advisory Council meeting every other month around issues that impact youth; 2 Policy positions open</p> <p><b>Dana Robson, DMH</b>– everything continues to be difficult with regard to staffing, people getting preventative care and this is spilling out by more kids with highly acute needs waiting longer for appropriate level of care (higher); Jarrett House just went back to full time care last week; this week Retreat (formerly running at decreased capacity for past 2 years) originally at 18 bed capacity down to 8 beds, decided to open a second smaller unit of 4 kids which increases their ability to manage kids and combinations of kids better; working with DCF more closely about kids in ED's waiting for beds, still challenging; still open position for care manager in Children's Unit; Laurel just hired someone for the new integration grant; have included language in the Dept of Financial Regulation to create a study group to look at kids with private insurance who need a higher level of care, this will require key point people for a multi-systemic approach</p> <p><b>Rachel Wassel, DAIL</b>– many of same issues as others, finally fully staffed with new Director; lots of new staff coming up to speed together; state system of care plan – looking at updates, currently before the legislature, which could slightly shift the role of DAIL; shared living model being looked at</p> <p><b>Barb Joyal, Family Services</b>– working to respond to the challenges to the system of care, proposals in the BAA, promising things – increase to the increase the the foster care reimbursement rate and ask for additional respite dollars; lots of conversation about the Woodside replacement facility, some senior leadership changes – Linda and Ruth leaving, interviews happening; lots of work happening to support congregate care settings; Kin Navigation program – working on developing an evidenced based model, working with other organizations and 4 other States – looking to stand it up in March – intake and referral support for all families regardless of their connections to FSD</p> <p><b>Beth Sausville, Family Services</b> – Gave update on the work, talked about the challenges within congregate care network, COVID and staffing, use of Travelers, not without challenges, able to provide COVID supplies and resources, need to work on getting fair wages for program staff to impact hiring</p> <p><b>Danielle Bragg, DVAH</b> – in April, new Chief Medical Officer joining DHVA; need of eating disorder treatment, MA program working on getting to a</p>	

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	place to accept VT insurance; program Within Health – provide virtual IOP tx	
System of Care Report-discussion and next steps	<b>How do we utilize the report?</b> Might be able to pick topics for content in SIT to stay up to date with changes, tweaks, etc – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great report and clear – from the outside – visually inviting</li> <li>• Users Guide for LIT's</li> <li>• Poll the group for agenda topics</li> <li>• Message out each month to LIT teams – lessons learned</li> <li>• Might be a role in the LIT Connections mtgs as well</li> </ul>	
<b>Wrap Up and Next Steps</b>	Cheryle and Beth to meet and discuss focus for next month's mtg	